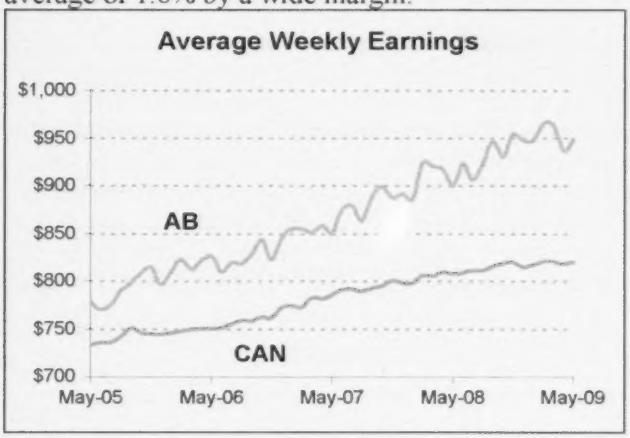
Average Weekly Earnings

Wages are still growing…

After two consecutive months of decline, Alberta's average weekly earnings grew by 1.3% in May, to $948.62 (seasonally adjusted). Alberta continued to have the highest average weekly earnings among provinces, and was well above the national average of $820.38.

On a year-to-date basis, Alberta's average weekly earnings have grown by 4.7%, the highest rate in Canada but still below the 6.0% annual growth seen in 2008. Year-over-year wage growth was also strong at 5.5%, exceeding the Canadian average of 1.6% by a wide margin.



Industrial Prices

Prices of industrial products, raw materials rise…

The price of industrial products in Canada was up in June, as the Industrial Product Price Index rose by 0.7% from May. The increase was mainly due to large jumps in the petroleum and coal products manufacturing (10.3%) and petroleum refineries (11.1%) categories.

The Raw Materials Price Index also rose in June, by 6.2% month-over-month. Reflecting growing optimism regarding global economic growth, the increase was primarily caused by rising energy prices, as the price of crude mineral oil was up 14.4% from May. Excluding mineral fuels, the Raw Materials Price Index rose by 0.8%.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/CS)	
July 31, 2009	92.68
July 24, 2009	92.23
2009-10 YTD	86.88
WTI Oil US$/bbl	
July 31, 2009	$ 66.92
July 23, 2009	$ 67.16
2009-10 YTD	$ 60.85
Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu *	
Near-month Contract	
July 31, 2009	$ 3.95
July 24, 2009	$ 3.98

* Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Employment Insurance

More Albertans are receiving benefits…

The number of Albertans receiving regular E.I. benefits increased again in May, by 16.8% from April. Alberta's year-over-year increase was quite large at 236.3%, but was partly due to the province's very low unemployment prior to the current downturn. Alberta's per-capita number of E.I. claims was 20 per 1,000 adults, below the Canadian average of 29.

Real GDP

Output continues to decline in May…

Canadian real gross domestic product decreased 0.5% in May, the largest rate of decline since January. This was mainly due to slowdowns in the energy (-2.3%) and manufacturing (-1.6%) sectors, with motor vehicle manufacturing seeing a 21% drop. Growth in the home resale market led to an 8.2% jump in the output of real estate agents and brokers, which returned to May 2008 levels.

U.S. Economy

Contraction slows as recession nears an end…

Output in the U.S. economy contracted at a 1.0% annualized rate in the second quarter, following a revised 6.4% decline in Q1. Initial jobless claims rose to 584,000, a return to trend from prior weeks' numbers, which were skewed lower by early auto-sector layoffs. Nonetheless, this indicates layoffs may be easing compared to earlier in the year, when they were trending above 600,000.

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

July 31, 2009

Overall Economy	2007	2008	2009YTD*	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Real GDP (in 2002 $billions)	187.5	187.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	3.1	-0.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nominal GDP ($ billions)	258.9	291.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	8.1	12.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Population[1] (000's) (level)	3,511	3,585	3,654	3,632	--	--	3,654	--	--
% change	2.6	2.1	2.6	2.6	--	--	2.7	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	33,809	10,010	18,269	6,198	--	--	7,144	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	16,136	19,283	13,179	4,097	--	--	4,175	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)	13,539	17,890	17,557	4,870	--	--	4,626	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	1,959	2,013	1,989	2,026	2,002	1,987	1,993	1,994	1,990
% change	4.7	2.8	-0.5	1.2	0.2	-1.0	-0.9	-1.1	-1.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.5	3.6	5.8	4.4	5.4	5.8	6.0	6.6	6.8
Average Hourly Wage Rate	6.0	5.7	5.0	6.2	4.5	3.6	4.3	5.0	6.1
NEW: Average Weekly Earnings[2]	5.8	6.0	4.7	7.0	4.5	4.8	2.1	5.5	--
Labour Income[3]	11.3	8.4	4.0	5.0	3.9	3.0	--	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	5.0	3.1	0.2	1.2	2.1	0.9	-0.7	-0.7	-1.6
Excluding food and energy	4.9	1.9	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.1	1.7	1.6
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[4] (quarterly)	17.3	13.2	-1.0	--	--	-1.0(Q1)	--	--	--
Farm Product Price Index	14.3	11.1	-6.6	-3.9	-5.9	-4.7	-6.1	-12.0	--
Crops	41.4	26.3	-23.8	-18.8	-22.0	-23.0	-25.4	-29.3	--
Livestock	0.7	2.1	10.4	13.8	12.4	17.5	12.3	-2.5	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	48.1	29.0	14.4	15.7	12.6	11.9	13.5	13.5	19.3
% change	-2.1	-39.7	-58.0	-55.8	-62.4	-77.0	-55.6	-57.8	-15.7
New Housing Price Index	22.5	0.7	-9.8	-8.4	-9.6	-10.5	-10.7	-9.8	--
Edmonton	32.1	1.0	-11.8	-10.4	-12.2	-12.3	-12.5	-11.7	--
Calgary	16.2	0.6	-7.8	-6.5	-7.1	-8.7	-8.8	-7.9	--
MLS Average Resale Prices	24.3	-1.4	-7.8	-10.0	-9.2	-10.4	-6.8	-5.8	-4.6
Edmonton	34.3	-2.0	-6.5	-4.5	-8.7	-10.1	-7.4	-4.2	-3.8
Calgary	18.7	-2.9	-9.7	-11.4	-10.8	-11.3	-10.1	-8.7	-6.3
Retail Sales	9.3	-0.1	-10.9	-6.4	-13.5	-13.8	-10.1	-10.5	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	3.3	-7.3	-28.3	-22.5	-35.4	-31.9	-24.4	-27.5	--
Business Sector									
NEW: Public and Private Investment[5]	9.1	3.6	-17.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining and oil and gas[5]	0.3	-1.4	-28.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rigs Drilling	-35.2	-2.1	-44.9	-24.4	-43.9	-60.8	-42.0	-39.2	-56.3
Goods Exports (customs based)	5.3	33.2	-36.3	-27.3	-30.2	-36.1	-39.8	-46.0	--
Energy	4.4	40.9	-42.8	-31.5	-35.1	-44.0	-47.2	-51.7	--
Agriculture	9.8	28.6	-1.5	-3.4	3.6	-3.9	6.9	-17.6	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	11.9	15.2	4.5	--	--	4.5(Q1)	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	1.9	6.9	-19.3	-13.6	-15.1	-14.2	-23.6	-28.2	--
Wholesale Trade	5.0	10.9	-9.0	4.5	-6.3	-4.4	-12.2	-22.0	--
Building Permits	13.4	-16.5	-41.7	-52.5	-66.9	-29.9	-40.9	-18.6	--
Residential	10.7	-31.5	-54.1	-67.0	-72.4	-38.9	-44.2	-49.3	--
Non-residential	17.1	3.7	-29.4	-40.2	-61.8	-20.7	-37.3	13.0	--

Government of Alberta
Finance and Enterprise

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30). The April population estimate is also the 2009 year-to-date value.

[2] The average weekly earnings series was extensively revised on March 31, 2009 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins

[3] Total income earning in Alberta including wages and salaries, and supplementary income.

[4] Average of Calgary and Edmonton.

[5] 2009 total based on revised investment intentions, 2008 preliminary actuals, and 2007 actuals; 2009 mining and oil and gas based on initial investment intentions.

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association) and Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors).

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, BY PROVINCE

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Conference Board Forecast (Spring 2009)											
Real GDP Growth											
2008 (actuals, Statistics Canada)	***0.5%***	-0.1%	0.9%	2.0%	-0.0%	1.0%	-0.4%	2.4%	4.4%	**-0.2%**	-0.3%
2009	***-1.7%***	-5.0%	-0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	-0.9%	-2.4%	1.0%	0.2%	**-2.4%**	-1.8%
2010	***2.5%***	1.0%	1.7%	1.5%	2.2%	1.8%	2.5%	2.4%	3.2%	**2.9%**	3.3%
Population (As of April 1, 2009)											
Population	**33,592,686**	508,726	140,638	939,475	748,866	7,799,372	13,014,018	1,217,163	1,027,092	**3,653,840**	4,435,344
Annual Growth Rate[a]	***1.23%***	0.20%	1.19%	0.18%	0.26%	0.89%	1.02%	1.16%	1.49%	**2.71%**	1.70%
Net Interprovincial Migration											
2008 Census Year (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008)		1,299	42	-117	-325	-12,399	-16,522	-503	8,067	**10,010**	11,458
1st Quarter (January 1, 2009 to March 31, 2009)		98	-66	-357	61	-2,016	-5,015	-181	545	**7,144**	-16
Employment											
Level Change (000s)[b]	**-340.7**	-5.4	-1.6	-3.9	3.0	-29.9	-215.1	-1.9	14.5	**-32.0**	-68.4
Percent Change[b]	***-1.9%***	-2.3%	-2.1%	-0.8%	0.8%	-0.8%	-3.2%	-0.3%	2.8%	**-1.6%**	-2.9%
Unemployment Rate, 2009 avg (SA)	***8.0***	14.9	12.2	9.0	9.0	8.3	8.9	4.9	4.7	**5.8**	7.2
Participation Rate, 2009 avg (SA)	***67.4***	59.0	67.7	64.6	64.8	65.4	67.5	69.3	70.5	**74.6**	65.9
Average Weekly Earnings											
May 2009 NEW!	**820.38**	800.09	688.23	727.92	749.60	754.09	846.69	766.36	806.66	**948.62**	799.65
Y/Y Percent Increase[c]	***1.6%***	4.9%	3.9%	2.5%	3.5%	-0.8%	1.2%	1.9%	3.6%	**5.5%**	1.4%
2009 Wage Settlements										**4.5%**	
CPI Inflation											
June Annual	**-0.3%**	0.3%	-0.8%	-1.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.6%	1.0%	**-1.6%**	-0.7%
Excluding Shelter	**-0.1%**	0.6%	1.1%	-0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	-0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	**0.4%**	0.0%
Housing Starts (000s)											
SAAR June 2009	**140.7**	3.0	1.0	3.1	3.5	40.6	45.6	4.8	5.9	**19.3**	13.8
Retail Sales											
Percent Change[d]	**-6.1%**	1.7%	-2.5%	-3.9%	-1.8%	-5.4%	-4.8%	-4.8%	-5.3%	**-10.5%**	-8.6%
2009 YTD Retail Sales Growth	**-6.2%**	0.1%	-2.0%	-3.7%	-2.1%	-4.0%	-5.5%	-4.5%	-3.9%	**-10.9%**	-9.6%
Manufacturing Shipments											
Percent Change[d]	**-27.0%**	-57.5%	20.3%	-16.5%	-35.5%	-24.3%	-29.2%	-8.8%	-9.6%	**-28.2%**	-26.3%

a. Over the past 12 months
b. June 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
c. Updated to May 2009
d. May 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
SA-Seasonally Adjusted, SAAR-Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Conference Board of Canada

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